

Abstract

A system and method are disclosed for the automatic and transparent repair of IP multicast sessions. The invention is a system and method for the repair of IP multicast sessions. In one aspect of the invention the method repairs a multicast session in a network, beginning with the step of sending a request message from a source to a subscription server in the network, requesting a repair service for an original multicast session originated by the source. The method continues by sending an enabling signal from the subscription server to a plurality of retransmit servers in the network, to buffer data traffic from the original multicast session, in response to the request. The method continues by buffering a copy of the data traffic at each of the plurality of retransmit servers and monitoring errors in each copy. The method continues by automatically selecting with the plurality of retransmit servers at least one retransmit server from among the plurality, having a minimum of the errors in its respective copy. The method concludes by sending the respective copy to a repair server in the network to enable the repair server to provide a repaired multicast session derived from the respective copy.